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Photo courtesy of Infiniti North America

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FROM THE EDITOR | BY CHRIS TARBOX

I'm In Love With My Car

To those who know me, it's no secret that my favorite band of all time is Queen. A legendary rock band with one of the most iconic and prolific song catalogues in history, it's pretty tough to choose which one of their tunes is the absolute best ("Bohemian Rhapsody" excluded, of course. That one's pretty damn obvious).

But one song of theirs in particular that sticks out to me is the 1975 B-side to "Bohemian Rhapsody": "I'm In Love With My Car", written and sung by drummer Roger Taylor. The three-minute hard rock ode to an automobile featured these lyrics belted out with Taylor's signature raspy howl:

When I'm holding your wheel
All I hear is your gear
With my hand on your grease gun
It's like a disease son

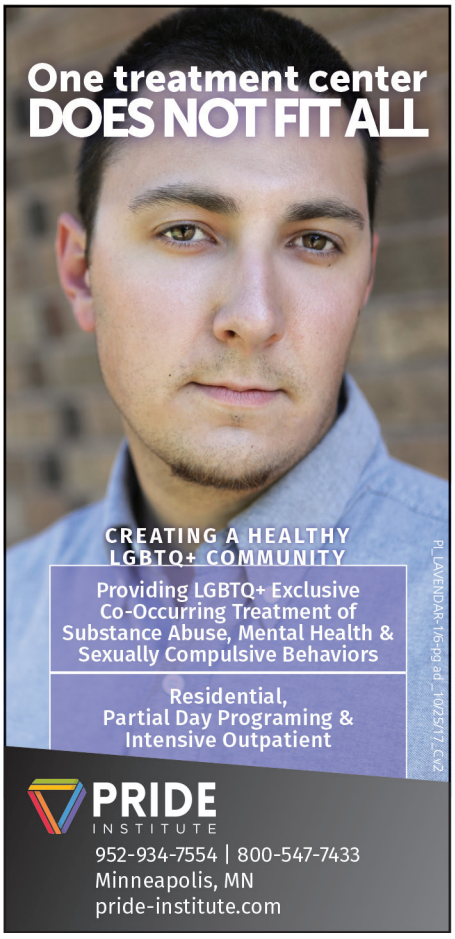
I'm in love with my car
Gotta feel for my automobile
Get a grip on my boy racer rollbar
Such a thrill when your radials squeal

Photo courtesy of BigStock/Nito

It's not a huge leap to consider that the protagonist of this song isn't the only person to exhibit such obvious love and devotion to their cars and vehicles. To me, my car is just a means of getting from A to B, but for others, cars are a way of life.

So if you do indeed get a thrill when your radials squeal, we've got the issue for you: the 2018 Auto & Motorsports issue. We run the gamut from a preview of this year's Twin Cities Auto Show, a look at the GLBT-friendly Lambda Car Club, a gander at what's offered at Osseo Powersports, and Randy Stern's latest Ride Review, this time of the sleek Audi Q5.

Hopefully if the sound of an engine revving quickens your pulse, this issue has what you need. And of course, always drive responsibly, but if you can, open the car windows and blast some Queen on the stereo when you're cruising down the highway. Trust me, you may not necessarily look cool doing it, but you'll feel pretty damn cool doing it. Signed, a guy who's done this more times than is probably healthy. ■



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A WORD IN EDGEWISE | BY E.B. BOATNER

It Takes Two Kinds

People are forever announcing, "There are two kinds of people." Too often, they mean them and others who do whatever they do correctly, and those who perform it *differently*. End-time battles are fought over which way to roll toilet paper, when everyone knows that it should be… but I digress.

There are plenty of valid "Two-Kinds" dichotomies that empiric evidence shows are bred in the bone. The existence of Night people and Day people is one, and while one may argue rightness or wrongness, there is no changing one type to the other. (As a Night person, I have observed that night owls don't care when early birds sleep, whereas early risers make it their mission to roust out nyctophiles at the crack of dawn.)

My own take on "two kinds of people" is kinetic, separating humanity into the "Energetic" and the "Entropic": those who never cease doing, and those who barely manage to do anything at all. People will tell you he or she is "tired," but then—unintentionally—reveal they plan that day to work their eight hours, then dress up, dine out, and go to the theater that evening, or share at length upcoming plans for strenuous vacations incorporating bicycle touring abroad, rock climbing, and scuba diving. These founts of energy cross all lines of age, gender, wealth, or social station.

Money may determine whether an individual is able to carry out his intentions, but on the other hand, neither coffers of cash, class status, nor level of education can infuse energy into Entropics. It must be noted, however, that neither type is guaranteed success, since energy undisciplined will dissipate, and determined Entropics can prevail—eventually.

Are Entropics just lazy, or were they actually not allotted fuel equal to that which propels the Energetics' engines? There may be laziness, or physical constraints, but my contention is that energy reservoirs come hardwired. Energetics can't slow down, Entropics can't rev up. The best recourse for either side is to acknowledge that there exists Otherness, and to accept that those Others are coping with the birthright they were dealt just as you cope with yours.

As one who barely tasks—much less multitasks—my energy is now running on lean; it's time for a nap. ■

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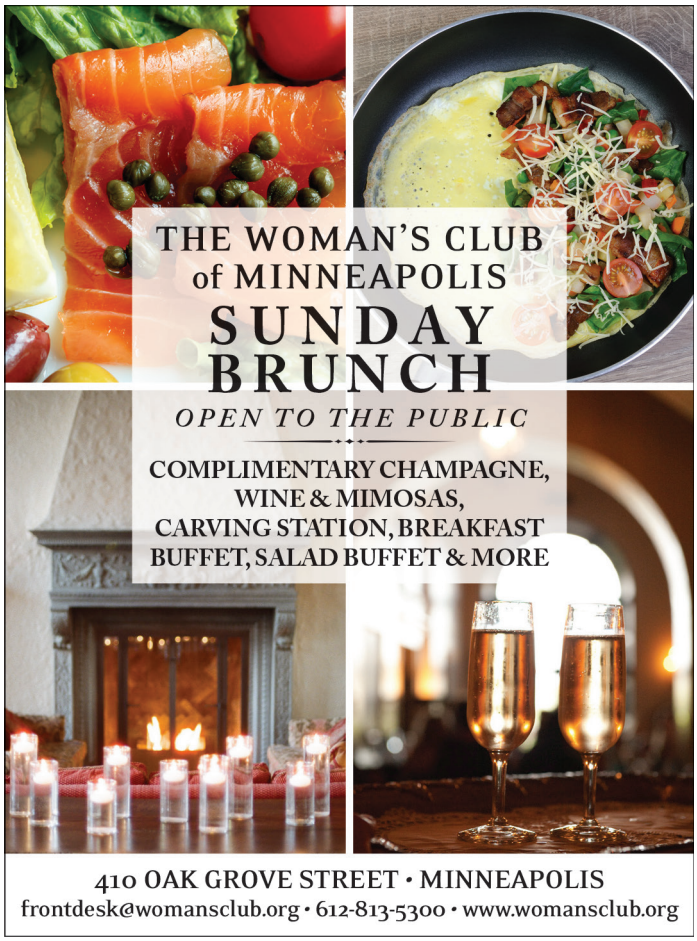
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The Great Divide. Photo by George Byron Griffiths Photography

THE GREAT DIVIDE II: PLAYS ON THE POLITICS OF TRUTH

March 14-25
Pillsbury House Theatre, 3515 Chicago Ave. S
Minneapolis
612-825-0459
www.pillsburyhousetheatre.org

Noel Raymond directs five short plays at Pillsbury House by Christina M. Ham, Jessica Huang, Tim J. Lord, Stacey Rose, and Andrew Rosendorf with music by DJ Chanum. Among these, Rose's work has queer content. The playwright shares, *"Sven, Ole & The Armageddon Myth* is a ten-minute play about a group of coworkers stuck in an after-work hangout situation right before what will likely be a nuclear holocaust. The character Van, played by Audrey Park, is an edgy lesbian who is unable to care about anyone but herself or the quality of the drugs in the room. She's a funny chick, but you definitely don't want her to be the only shoulder you have to lean on, especially during a nuclear holocaust."

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

Through March 25
Park Square Theatre, 20 W Seventh Pl., St. Paul
651-291-7005
www.parksquaretheatre.org

Gilbert and Sullivan's high seas romp, *The Pirates of Penzance*, is ideal fare for beating the late-winter blues. Hop on board a steamer to New York with madcap pirates, policemen, and lovers at Park Square. Actor-singer Bradley Greenwald tells us, "I'm playing both the Pirate King and the operetta's composer, Arthur Sullivan. One role is an extrovert, the other an introvert. Sometimes they get played at the same time. I like that kind of challenge!"

Pirates of Penzance. Photo by Petronella J. Ytsma

PRINCESS IDA

March 2-25
Howard Conn Fine Arts Center
1900 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis
651-255-6947
www.gsvloc.org

The Gilbert and Sullivan Very Light Opera Company is out to tickle your funny bone, to get you thinking about the fluidity of desire, and to muse over how both sexes could stand to be more aware of how they embody gender roles. The vehicle is *Princess Ida*, inspired by the Alfred, Lord Tennyson poem. It is staged with a "steampunk" concept that revels in the 19th century futuristic vision of steam-powered technology.

Director Joe Andrews points out that "while ostensibly *Princess Ida* is a satire of feminism in Victorian England, male chauvinism takes as many or more barbs in the play. The real fun—aside from particularly beautiful melodies and delicious lyrics from Sullivan and Gilbert respectively—I think, is the ability to play with gender stereotypes and conventional expectations. When the three male leads dress as women to gain entry into Ida's all-female college, we're afforded the opportunity to explore both sexual and romantic attraction and gender in a way that was likely taboo—or at least understood—in 1880. In our production, the prince embraces his new female persona. In a way, this 'mask' is freeing for him. New to our production, too, is that the princess finds herself attracted to the new female recruit. The result is that they are able to explore their mutual attraction and ensuing confusion and excitement, regardless of gender. This is given more poignancy with the added lines from Shakespeare's sonnet 116: *…love is not love which alters when it alteration finds."*

Princess Ida. Graphic courtesy of Tom McGregor and Mary Olson

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

The Wiz. Photo by Dan Norman

THE ROARING GIRL

March 2-18
Gremlin Theatre, 550 Vandalia St., St. Paul
651-321-4024
www.classicalactorsensemble.org

The English Renaissance is a watershed period for the emergence of crossgender stage representations. Classical Actors Ensemble is presenting one of the most famous works reflecting that during that era *not* written by Shakespeare. *The Roaring Girl* by Thomas Middleton and Thomas Dekker was written circa 1610 (during what's known as the Jacobean period of King James I) and its lead role of Moll Cutpurse gives us a woman who defies gender roles with gusto.

Lead actress Meredith Kind relates, "Moll seems to identify as an independent or an asexual: someone who identifies as female and dresses sometimes in the more common wear of women, other times in a mix of men's and women's fashion, and still at other times dressing fully in men's clothing. It's utterly refreshing to play a classical character who is in no way searching for or involved in a relationship of any kind. In fact, she says that she considers herself 'man enough for a woman.'"

Kind points out that Moll "is self-sufficient, self-reliant, and yet, while she condemns the dastardly and common mistreatment of women, she is also harsh on the women who don't stand up for themselves like she has done."

THE WIZ

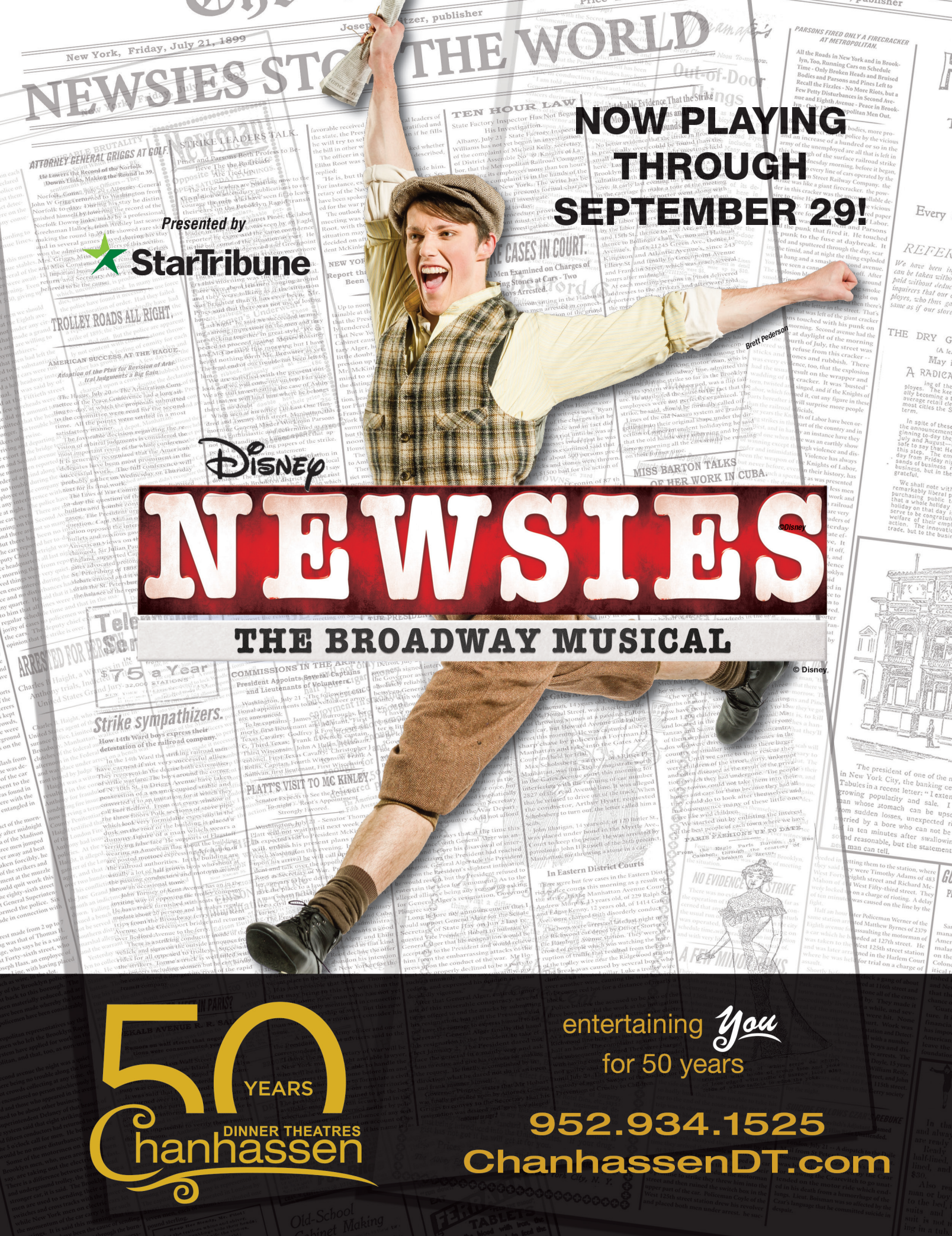
Through March 18
Children's Theatre Company
2400 Third Ave. S, Minneapolis
612-874-0400
www.childrenstheatre.org

The prestigious Children's Theatre Company, in conjunction with Penumbra Theatre Company, one of the nation's most acclaimed African-American theaters, has revived the 1975 Broadway groundbreaker, *The Wiz*. Composer-lyricist Charlie Smalls infuses a Motown sensibility with William F. Brown, the musical's book writer, to re-imagine L. Frank Baum's enchanted Land of Oz as late 20th century New York City.

Director Lou Bellamy, renowned for his exceptional productions of heavy drama, has never had a lighter touch. With *The Wiz* he is actually a revelation. The pacing is continuously brisk, the acting style charmingly heightened, and the overall effect uplifting. Paris Bennett leads the stellar cast as Dorothy, the Kansas farm girl transported to Oz by cyclone. Though Bennett pushes the emotion a bit too much in moments, she is a terrific singer and guides the storyline well.

This vibrant revival shines with marvelous character role performances by veteran actors: Dennis W. Spears as the Tinman turns a mix of gangly and stiff physicality into fine art. Greta Oglesby and T. Mychael Rambo are commandingly intimidating with delicious comic edges as wicked witch Evillene and the duplicitous Wiz. Jamecia Bennett is alluringly magnetic as good witch Glinda.

Music Director Sanford Moore's orchestra creamily glides the sound into the beautiful groove of "Soul", as *The Wiz's* original subtitle suggests: *The Super Soul Musical "Wonderful Wizard of Oz"*. The sound streams into dreamy alignment with Patdro Harris's choreography. The dazzling way in which sensuously whirling dancers signify the cyclone is one of many indicators of just how creatively inspired the entire ensemble is. ■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A DAY in the Life

BY CHRIS TARBOX

PAM COLBY

Name: Pam Colby

Age: 58

Where did you grow up? Floodwood, Minnesota (population 528) and Hanlontown, Iowa (population 226).

Where do you live? On Park Avenue, Central neighborhood, in Minneapolis.

Who do you live with? I live alone, but it's complicated. I'm in a duplex, in the unit above me is my ex-partner and her partner and in the basement unit is our 20-year-old son and often his girlfriend. I venture to St. Paul on the weekends to stay with my girlfriend Nora.

What is your occupation? Filmmaker, storyteller, and I teach Cinema and Documentary classes at Film North.

When did you come out? I came out 35 years ago in 1983. I was politically active, and during the AIDS epidemic, coming out became a political act. There was a slogan at the time: "Silence equals death."

How'd that go? Coming out has been in waves, and it never ends, a life long endeavor, over and over again. I really appreciate the evolving understanding of gender and gender fluency.

When do you wake up? 7:00 a.m., with some variation.

Phone alarm or old school alarm? Phone alarm.

What's the first thing you do in the morning? Read emails on my phone, trying to break that habit.

Breakfast? Oatmeal when I have time, hardboiled egg in a hurry.

Coffee? Tea.

Cream or no? I haven't been doing dairy and that, along with living in Minnesota, equals low Vitamin D for me. I'm taking supplements.

How do you spend your commute? Books downloaded on my phone, or NPR.

If your job were like a yearbook, what would you be voted? Since I would be the only one voting, I'd have to say "Best Dressed" and "Most Likely to Succeed."

What inspires you? I'm inspired by impermanence. Things change, and as a queer person, I have seen a lot of positive change in my life.

Do you eat your lunch while working or take a break? I take a break.

Is your work space tidy or a hot mess? Hot organized mess.

What's been your favorite job? My current job, working for myself at Pam Colby Productions (www.pamcolby.com). Previously, I served as the Executive Director of the Minneapolis Telecommunications Network, the public access center in Minneapolis. I loved that job as well.

Who are your heroes? Karen Clark and Andrea Jenkins. Both are featured in my new documentary film.

Favorite weeknight meal: Go out, take out, or cook in? Cook in, tempeh, sweet potato and broccoli. One of my regular staples.

Most embarrassing moment: In high school, it happened after winning a volleyball match in a rival town. In the cloak of darkness, I led the team out of the locker room for a victory dive in their outdoor pool. I was the only one to climb the fence and dive in. The pool had been drained for the season. I was embarrassed and did need some stitches, but was very lucky and not seriously injured.

On a usual weeknight, you are doing what? Each night is different but here is my current rotation: teaching at Film North, taking an acting class at the Guthrie, yoga, meditation at Common Ground Meditation Center and hanging with a friend when I can.

Bedtime: 11:00 p.m.

Favorite weekend activity: Spending time with my girlfriend Nora. We like to go to movies, local theatre, snowshoe, hike and kayak. On Sunday afternoons my sister Karen and I take my mom grocery shopping. I'm grateful to have my mom nearby and in good health.

What are you most proud of and why? My sons Joah (26) and Theo (20), they are thoughtful, caring and compassionate young men. I'm very proud that I've just finished a feature-length documentary that explores the impact of marriage equality on artists, activists and politicians. I serve as narrator and storyteller, www.NotinMyLifetime.info.

Words of wisdom to share: I began to meditate about ten years ago, and have become more dedicated to the practice and Buddhist teachings in the last few years. It has been very good for me. Self-compassion makes life easier. I do believe that undoing white privilege and racism is good for everyone, I try to stay aware and to work for change. ■

Photo by Hubert Bonnet

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By Randy Stern and Kassidy Tarala

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18 TO 30

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REVVED UP AND READY TO GO:
Twin Cities Auto Show Preview

If one thing is certain for the 45th Annual Twin Cities Auto Show, it is bigger than ever.

This is not just an understatement. It will be the biggest auto show we have seen ever. More space has been made available inside the Minneapolis Convention Center for new exhibits, an additional test track, and some exclusive debuts of vehicles never seen before.

Starting with the latter, there is now a new exhibit area called Acceleration Alley. This exhibit only features the fastest and hottest vehicles priced over $75,000. The main attraction of this exhibit is a pair of custom built modern muscle cars from Hurst Heritage cars. Marking Hurst's 50th anniversary of its "gentleman's hot rods," now taking the form of a Dodge Challenger and Ford Mustang. The Mustang features a Kenne Bell supercharger attached to its 5.0-liter V8 producing 750 horsepower. Each vehicle is set to have a sales limit of 50 units per model. Both cars are making their first appearance at the Twin Cities Auto Show.

If you have not been to a Twin Cities Auto Show, you are in for a real treat. It starts with the 37 brands showing their latest and greatest on the main floor. They are flanked by many other experiences for the family to enjoy. Camp Jeep is a way to see how the most well-known lineup of SUVs perform through obstacles that test a vehicle's mettle. Mitsubishi will have their own test track for their new Outlander PHEV and Eclipse Cross to demonstrate the strength of their Super All-Wheel Control, system in various maneuvers and conditions.

Potential customers can actually drive the newest models from outside of the convention center on a short loop through the Ride & Drive program. This year, Chevrolet, Ford, Mazda, Toyota and Volkswagen are slated to offer these experiences through their latest vehicles.

Since there is a growing number of owners of plug-in electric and hybrid vehicles in our region, there is the Electric Room. This is where you can see the latest in vehicles and charging systems. One could also enjoy the finest automobiles sold in the Twin Cities by walking through the Luxury Lane—which would include vehicles from Bentley, Maserati, Aston Martin, and other luxury brands.

The Auto Show will feature some special nights for everyone. Friday, March 16 is where the lights turn low for After Dark. This will give the Auto Show a new experience with a nighttime look—with some lighting, of course. You can check out the Crime Fighting Cars exhibit, where you are able to solve mysteries through the lens of some of the most iconic stars on the small screen: the cars themselves. These are just among several special events and exhibits seen inside of the Minneapolis Convention Center between March 10 and 18.

2019 Inifinit QX50. Photo courtesy of Infiniti North America

Photo courtesy of Randy Stern

Photo courtesy of Randy Stern

Every year, the Twin Cities Auto Show presents a "Car of The Show." This year's star is the all-new 2019 Infiniti QX50. The new premium compact SUV is developed from the ground up to replace the long-running namesake to compete in one of the hottest segments in the business. The showcase of the new QX50 is an all-new 2.0-liter turbocharged engine with a variable compression ratio, the first such engine to reach production. This engine was designed for more efficient operation and performance equally through on demand delivery.

In all, visitors will expect to see 600 automobiles from 36 brands inside the Minneapolis Convention Center. This annual effort of the Greater Metropolitan Automobile Dealers Association of Minnesota, Inc. will welcome thousands of ticketed visitors, the media and industry people for nine days of fun and engagement.

The auto show will run from Saturday, March 10 through Sunday, March 18. Doors open at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday and Friday during the show run. All other days, the doors open at 4 p.m. Except for Sundays, the show remains open until 10 p.m.

Tickets are available in advance for $10. For teenagers aged 11-15, the ticket price is $6. If you are attending on Wednesday, March 14, tickets for everyone are just $6. If you are an active duty member of the Armed Forces, or a retired or disabled veteran, you can attend the auto show on Tuesday, March 13 for free.

There are plenty of discount coupons available through various auto retailers and SuperAmerica stores. Advanced ticket sales are through the auto show's website at www.twincitiesautoshow.com.

If you "gotta go the Auto Show," this is the year to go! ■

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By Randy Stern

GET YOUR MOTOR RUNNING WITH LAMBDA CAR CLUB

Did you know there this is a GLBT car club you can be a member of?

In the Twin Cities and Upper Midwest, the Lambda Car Club International had a region based here for years. A recent transition created a new local entity for the international GLBT car club called the Upper Midwest Great Northern Region.

What the Lambda Car Club International does is connect its members across the U.S. and internationally based on their love of the automobile. The local region is one of 32 that are active across this country. LCCI states that you do not need to own a car to become a member, but to have a love for the automobile and be social with other GLBT people that also share the same love for them.

The original region representing this area started in 2000 and it had a membership of up to 50 enthusiasts. After a gap in time, the region restarted in 2015, now with 36 active members currently.

Photos by Randy Stern

Members have participated in both regional and national events for LCCI. Each year, the national organization will hold their Grand Invitational event. This year, it will be held in Nashville on May 22-27. The region itself had their own activities including drive-in movie nights, local tourism with visits to points of interests in and around the Twin Cities, along with other gatherings of members.

To get a sense of the renewed energy in the region, one of its members told us how enthusiastic he was to see the Upper Midwest Great Northern Region bring the LCCI back to our part of the country.

"'I joined several years ago, as I have a

LCCI states that you do not need to own a car to become a member, but to have a love for the automobile and be social with other GLBT people that also share the same love for them.

friend who is a member," said member John Flannagan. "I always liked cars, but don't have a lot of technical knowledge or mechanical ability. It's a great place to just chat about cars, see old cars and share with others of like mind."

Flannagan went on to explain how the club can also help fellow members in collecting and maintaining their prized vehicles.

"LCCI is also a great resource in getting advice on buying and maintain old cars," Flannagan said. "There's a lot of knowledge and experience among the members. And you don't have to own or be focused just on old cars. Many members are into new cars. Members have also sold cars back and forth among themselves over the years!"

The essence of what LCCI and the Upper Midwest Great Northern Region is to go beyond its image of a club for certain genre of classic automobiles—mainly post-World War II luxury automobiles. It wants to reach out to include automotive enthusiasts of all stripes within and outside the GLBT community. That also includes all sorts of vehicles—including modern vehicles.

There are dues that are paid annually for membership. LCCI's national dues are $37, with additional region dues for $15. You can add another member—a spouse, partner, roommate, significant other, friend, etc.—for just $5. You even do not have to have a vehicle to join; plus, all vehicles are welcome from classics to the latest and greatest. Whenever an event comes up, guests are welcome to join in.

If you love the automobile, this new region of LCCI is the ticket to extend your enthusiasm within your community.

For more information, log on to: www.lcci-car.clubexpress.com. Under Region Finder, choose the dot that points to the Upper Midwest Great Northern Region. Or, sign up for membership at the home page. ■

By Kassidy Tarala

FEEL THE POWER OF POWERSPORTS

Osseo Powersports offers adventurous Minnesotans the best of ATVs, motorcycles, and more.

If you're a fan of powersports, Osseo Powersports is a name you'll want to remember. A full-time Honda powersports and power equipment dealer, Osseo Powersports has the best recommendations for hot new vehicles to get this spring and summer.

According to Osseo Powersports Sales Manager Bryce Machado, Osseo Powersports provides Honda machines for people of all ages, from three- and four-year-olds to "whenever you're no longer capable of riding."

This year, Machado says Osseo Powersports has a vast selection of new Honda machines.

"We have the all-new 2018 Honda Gold Wing, the 2018 CB650F, the 2018 Rebel 300 and 500, and the 2018 CBR300R," he says.

They also offer a selection of brand new Honda motorcycles, ATVs, side-by-sides, scooters, and different sports bikes, which are great for beginners.

"The Rebel 300 & 500 are awesome beginner cruiser bikes. The CBR300R or CBR500R are great beginner sport bikes," Machado says.

In addition to power equipment and gear, Osseo Powersports also offers free machine inspections to make sure that your machine is safe to ride.

"We offer free machine inspections to make sure your toy is safe and that no maintenance is needed," Machado says.

Osseo Powersports also offers customers different deals throughout the year. According to Machado, right now they are also offering a $99 spring oil change special. And when you buy a machine of any kind from Osseo Powersports, you get discounts for life, which might be applied to other gear and equipment or other deals like the oil change special.

They offer customers tire changes in addition to oil changes and other inspections, so when you become a customer of Osseo Powersports once, you're a member that is well cared for throughout the rest of your ownership of your machine.

Osseo Powersports gets involved in the community with small local events throughout the year, but their major event will be coming up in April when they have their open house. If you're not in the market for new equipment, Osseo Powersports also sells used and pre-owned equipment and powersports gear. They also offer a number of services including

Osseo Powersports offers a wide variety of vehicles, ranging from ATVs to motorbikes.
Photo courtesy of Osseo Powersports Honda

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There's a wide selection of both new and pre-owned vehicles and equipment sold at Osseo Powersports.
Photo courtesy of Osseo Powersports Honda

windshield installation, valve adjustment, wash and detail, and—perfect for Minnesota's chilly climate—winterization. Other services offered include tune-ups, hydraulic line flushes, top-end engine rebuilds, and chain and sprocket replacements. Osseo Powersports also offers test rides for products.

Customers who don't live in Osseo can easily browse their products in their online store, which features vehicles, equipment, parts, and accessories. You can look through their equipment catalog to get a better idea of what you might be looking for, shop around in their clearance section for discounted items, or view the latest vehicles on the market.

Whether you're a longtime powersports fan, just beginning, or interested in learning more, Osseo Powersports offers something for everyone. To learn more about their company, equipment, and services, visit their website at www.osseopowersports.com.

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Osseo Powersports offers a variety of hot new motorbikes, including the popular Honda CBR line.
Photo courtesy of Osseo Powersports Honda

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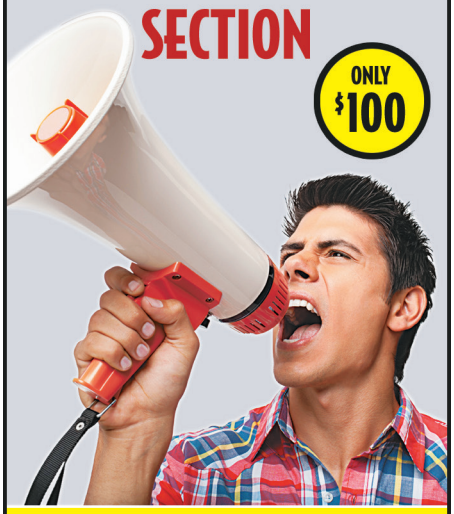

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By Randy Stern

[RIDE REVIEW]

AUDI Q5

Every time we get an SUV in for our Ride Reviews, we often end up repeating ourselves.

SUVs are the hottest market in automobiles right now. Smaller SUVs are driving sales of these utilities. However, there is one bit of information we have not stated before: the intensity of the rivalry among upmarket small SUVs.

Premium and luxury car brands are highly competitive. It stems from owner loyalty, brand chauvinism, and the highest stakes possible to be the absolute best among everyone else. If one vehicle offers a new technology, a rival vehicle will top that with a new twist on the technology or an entirely new feature altogether. This is a game of knothole with everything for the taking to the winner.

This translates into a fierce rivalry that has yielded annual winners. However, one such vehicle has risen to the top of this illustrious pile. In this SUV's case, the reason for its leadership is not due to sales alone—it was the second-best selling vehicle in its segment for 2017 behind the Lexus NX. Nor does it have something exclusive that is light years away the best and most advanced feature or design of its kind. It is simply that it is the best all-around vehicle in its class.

That is what many of our intelligence network told us about the Audi Q5. We had to get one in to find if our intelligence was correct. What arrived was a lovely Q5 with the top-of-the-line Prestige package in a lovely Moonlight Blue metallic finish.

That deep dark blue color brought out some luster to a very handsome SUV. The Q5 follows plenty of Audi design conventions: large grill, satin-chrome finishes, integral headlamp units housing multiple bulbs, a semi-fastback roofline, LED tail lights and concave license plate area. While it follows convention, it exudes an air of luxury that befits its place in the automotive universe. Audis are simply no longer understated.

There are a few things that are truly enjoyable about the Q5. The rear liftgate opens wide, which helps in loading wider items. The doors open equally wide, but rear door openings are just right. Our tester came with equally handsome and luxurious 20-inch wheels, part of the Prestige package. In all, the Q5 is unmistakably distinctive and absolutely easy to the eyes.

Where the Q5 stands out is the interior. It is not about the layout or the seats. It is also not about equipment levels. The big win for the Q5 is the level of quality of the materials used throughout the cabin, the controls and the readouts. The first thing that will jump out inside is the Virtual Cockpit: a full TFT screen that is customizable and easy to read. The instrument binnacle is anchored by two dials—the speed-

Photos by Randy Stern

Premium and luxury car brands are highly competitive. It stems from owner loyalty, brand chauvinism, and the highest stakes possible to be the absolute best among everyone else.

ometer and tachometer—where the middle part of the screen can give you any bit of information or facilitate any settings you make for it. In comparison to other vehicles in its class, this is the best instrumentation setup of them all!

The seats in the Prestige package are made of durable leather that is sporty and luxurious. Front seats offer proper bolstering while providing the right balance of support and comfort. The rear seats are fine, but leg room is a bit short. Making things interesting is a high transmission tunnel giving a center passenger a challenge to fight for foot room on either side. The Q5 is really made for four adults, which in many cases are just fine. Rear cargo space starts off with 26.8 cubic feet behind the rear seats, expanding to 60.4 cubic feet through to the back of the front seats.

The tablet-like infotainment screen that sits on top of the instrument panel is controlled by the MMI knob on the center console. Once you get through the sequence of screens through the knob, it becomes almost natural.

The word here is "almost," because the MMI system can also connect to your smartphone via Apple CarPlay or Android Auto. One thing to keep in mind is that it is not a touch screen system, therefore you must use the knob to control your smartphone functions. The good news is that the response from the MMI knob is very quick, which you can go from smartphone screen to the MMI interface with a couple of turns.

Once you have everything settled through the MMI system, sit back and let the 19-speaker Bang & Olufsen system with 3D sound entertain you. With a 16-channel amplifier and 755 watts of power, you will indeed rock your Q5 like your own personal dance club.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

Powering the Q5 is a 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine putting out 252 horsepower and 273 pound-feet of torque. Connected to the superb engine is a seven-speed S-tronic transmission channeling power to all four wheels with Audi's signature quattro all-wheel drive system. It is a solid engine that likes to chill and get motivated, depending on how much pressure you put on the accelerator pedal. It will also return decent fuel economy. Our average in our care came out to 22.7 MPG in the end. We did see a high of 24.3 MPG in our care when the weather was above freezing.

If there is a reason to get the Q5 over the competition, it's its driving manners. The ride quality is superb, and it does its best to keep things even over bumps and rougher surfaces. Handling is superb, as it handles turns and evasive maneuvers very well.

The Continental all-season tires could be better on icier surfaces, but the quattro all-wheel drive system does a great job to send traction to all four corners when necessary. You can also manipulate the system a bit by switching drive modes, We found the Offroad setting useful on snow and ice. Auto works well when traversing various surfaces. If you want a bit more fun on drier roads, Dynamic stiffens up the steering, suspension, and transmission shifts for more aggressive driving.

The brakes are great in every condition, including winter stops. Pedal feel is terrific, as expected in an Audi. Steering is also quite good, giving us tight turns and great response from the wheel. Active safety is also a strong Audi trait, as its suite of features made for better driving in our care. This included adaptive cruise control, lane departure warning, blind spot monitoring, rear cross-traffic alert, and a 360-degree camera. There is also a semi-autonomous feature that allows you to drive with your hands off the wheel for a brief moment while maintaining a location within the lane. There are two cameras positioned where the fog lamps would normally go that facilitates this feature.

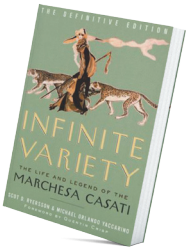
The biggest piece in this Q5 to discuss is the Pre-Sense system that uses all of its sensing technology to help prepare the vehicle to ensure its occupants will be just fine if a collision is to occur. It detects pedestrians in the Q5's path, monitors the side and rear areas, and enables occupants to be wary of oncoming traffic—including bicycles—before leaving the vehicle.

The Audi Q5's pricing starts from $41,500. Our 2.0T Prestige trim model came with a sticker price of $56,100. If you want something more than your average Q5, there is the high-performance SQ5 with a 354 horsepower turbocharged V6 engine underneath its hood. Pricing for the SQ5 starts at $54,300.

What makes the Audi Q5 a story worth telling is the impact these smaller premium SUVs had in the luxury vehicle market. A luxury brand no longer can count on their image-making sports sedan to lead the charge to earn more upwardly mobile customers. Even as the Bavarian four-ringed brand will still attract customers with sexy offerings—such as the R8 supercar, the RS7 high performance hatchback, and the upcoming 2019 A8 advanced flagship sedan—customers will still buy the Q5 by the thousands.

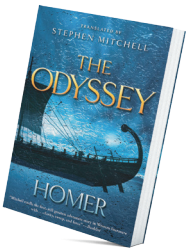
The Q5's customers have absolutely no shame in taking one home over some of Audi's more desirable attractions. They know something we now know about this SUV: it is absolutely the best vehicle in its segment. ■

BOOKS | BY E.B. BOATNER



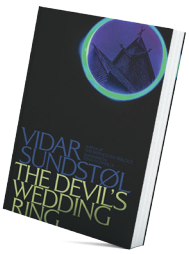
Infinite Variety: Life and Legend of the Marchesa Casati
Scott D. Ryerson and Michael Orlando Yaccarino
University of Minnesota Press
$29.95

Imagine a woman for whom an awed Quentin Crisp would write the foreword for her biography; such a one was Marchesa Luisa Casati (1881-1957). She was painted, sculpted, and photographed extensively, and the volume is richly illustrated with examples by Man Ray, Augustus John, Kees van Dongen, and Jacob Epstein, and her style, flair, and fashion influence our own era through John Galliano, Alexander McQueen, Karl Lagerfield, and others. Her star blazed through three decades of galas, leashed cheetahs, and jewelry—until 1930, when she had plunged some 25 million dollars into debt. Even in ruins, gaunt, blazing-eyed, she shone. Relates Crisp, himself flamboyant, "She wasn't beautiful—she was spectacular. Here as a woman possessing a presence one would never forget." Obviously, he never did.



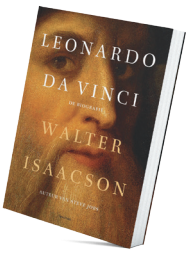
The Odyssey
Homer
Translated by Emily Wilson
Norton
$39.95

If you weren't overwhelmed by *The Odyssey* the first time, try this brisk translation by Emily Wilson, the first woman to translate the epic. Most are acquainted with Odysseus's exotic adventures and his doughty, faithful crew—none of whom made it back to Ithaca—but often got bogged down in language that reflects the translator's era rather than the voyagers'. Wilson set herself the daunting task of translating into the same number of lines as the original, at a "pace that could match its stride to Homer's nimble gallop." She succeeded by rendering Homer into our English epic meter, iambic pentameter, evoking the course of the swift black ships cutting the dark sea. Don't skip the Introduction or the Translator's Note; both fascinating and revelatory.



The Devil's Wedding Ring
Vidar Sundstøl, Translated by Tina Nunnally
University of Minnesota Press
$25.95

Sundstøl's Minnesota Trilogy showcased his grasp of psychological evil and how deftly he conveys it. Here, private investigator Max Fjellanger leaves Florida, returning to his native Norway after 30 years to investigate the suspicious suicide-drowning death of old friend and colleague, Knut Abrahamsen. Also connected: the folklorist that went missing in 1985; a student studying the same 13th century stave church who vanished exactly thirty years later, also at summer solstice. Knut and Max worked together under a corrupt sheriff; his son is now sheriff. Multiple characters with multiple agendas close about Max; darkness circles, emanating from the church and ancient statue of St. Nikul. Sundstøl presents not a mystery you may read relaxed, detached, but a vortex into which you, too, must also plunge.



Leonardo da Vinci
Walter Isaacson
Simon & Schuster
$35

One's first thought about the Mona Lisa is not of her being hauled about the countryside for 14 years—sometimes on mule-back—as da Vinci added another brush stroke now and again. Leonardo was a fitful starter, completion always uncertain; her commissioner never received the masterpiece. Isaacson brings this genius, complex man alive to the reader through a clear reporter's eye; concise, avoiding academese, yet making it clear just how thoroughly he has researched his subject. Brilliant, genial, homosexual, Leonardo da Vinci above all was voraciously curious. Mona Lisa's smile is due in part to his dissection of human cadavers—their lips—and his writings, plans, sketches remain today for our examination, down to his questions and do-lists, including, "Describe the tongue of the woodpecker."

Kjell Bergh's
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JEAN M. GUSTAFSON - Estate Law: Probate & Trust, Guardianship & Conservatorship, Child Protection, Mental Health Law. Licensed: Minnesota, South Dakota, Utah. MN Lavender Bar Association Greater Minnesota Fellowship Recipient, 2017. (218) 454-2039, GusLaw.net.

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